

City of Newton
Crime Prevention Commission

(Alternatively referred to below as CPC or the Commission)

Minutes of Meeting – Wednesday, October 16, 2013

7:00pm - Newton Police Headquarters, 1321 Washington Street, West Newton, MA 02465.

Active Commissioners Present: Frank Wolpe (Chair), Debra Darcy, Marc Epstein, Bernard Goulding and Fred Winer

Commissioners' Consultants (formerly called Visiting Guests) Present: Bill Renke, Terry Sauro, Sami O'Reilly, and Abby M. Wolpe

Ex-Officio Members Present: NPD Deputy Chief for Auxiliary Jeff Silton, NPD Lt. Bruce Apotheker

Guests Present: Andrea Courtois, Assignment Editor, WBZ TV, Athena Yerganian, Founder and President, Crime Atlas, Boston, MA

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Frank Wolpe, Chair who welcomed all present, including 1st time guests who had heard about the program. He then introduced our distinguished speaker, NPD Deputy Chief for Auxiliary Jeff Silton. After a few introductory remarks, Silton spoke about the inner workings of his group and a PowerPoint presentation followed by interactive questions and comments. He explained how the Newton Auxiliary Police is a completely volunteer group consisting of 35-40 members, initially organized in the 1960s as part of the Civil Defence Act. Coming forward to the present, they can be regularly seen working crowd and traffic control at special events and for special duty during natural disasters and inclement weather (like floods, blizzards, windstorms and blackouts). Additionally, they patrol the city in marked cruisers to assist full-time police officers as extra "eyes and ears." Thus, the presence of the Auxiliary, in uniform, has been proven to reduce vandalism and other crimes within the community. Their street duties also include work at the Boston Marathon, Walk for Hunger, July 4th, and other community events as well as assisting in other "city sponsored" and/or charitable public safety-related functions.

NPD Lt. Bruce Apotheker delivered the most recent 9/29/13 Comstat Crime Report, which revealed a, year-to-date, decrease in overall crime by 7% from the previous year's numbers. That decrease was again due in part by a drop in larcenies offset by a slight uptick in burglaries year to date between 2012 and 2013. Larcenies from motor vehicle/breaks were down from 163 in 2012 to 157 in 2013, again year to date. Pedestrian accident and bicycle accidents were also down

On a motion made by the Chair, and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.